

# ISTITUTO SIEROTERAPICO MILANESE

"SERAFFINO BELFANTI"

ENTE MORALE AGGREGATO ALLA UNIVERSITÀ DI MILANO

Direttore Scientifico: Prof. Augusto De Barbieri

Direzione Scientifica

Via Darwin, 20 - MILANO

TELEFONO n. 35.74.41 (5 linee)

Monday the 26th, March  
1956

Dear Joshua,

Thanks for your note of March 18. Concerning reprints: 300 will be requested by the Istituto, and 300 by myself, ~~xxx~~ <sup>with</sup> a total of 600; the invoice for the total should be addressed to the Istituto. An invoice will be necessary for being able to effect the payment.

I find some difficulties in writing chapters II and V, the material for which has been accumulated and various drafts have been already written, and shall have to wait for a period of inspiration. Are you one of those fortunate people who can ~~xxxxx~~ sit down at any moment and write whatever necessary in good form ~~xxxxx~~ and style? I certainly am not.

As you spoke in your last letter about a reconstruction experiment to test for Jacob's hypothesis; I made a similar one some time ago but it is not quite conclusive. Here are the essential data: Various numbers of A (M-F<sup>+</sup>Az<sup>S</sup>) and/or B cells (M-Hfr Az<sup>R</sup>) were crossed to TL-F-(10<sup>9</sup>) cells on min. Prototrophs were tested for Az and F, with the results given:

| No. cells       |                 | $\overbrace{\text{Az}^R}^{\text{F}^+ \quad \text{F}^-}$ |                | $\overbrace{\text{Az}^S}^{\text{F}^+ \quad \text{F}^-}$ |                |
|-----------------|-----------------|---|----------------|---|----------------|
| A               | B               | F <sup>+</sup>  | F <sup>-</sup> | F <sup>+</sup>  | F <sup>-</sup> |
| 10 <sup>7</sup> | -               | 0   | 0              | 44  | 6              |
| -               | 10 <sup>5</sup> | 0   | 41             | 0   | 9              |
| 10 <sup>6</sup> | 10 <sup>5</sup> | 1   | 34             | 2   | 11             |
| 10 <sup>7</sup> | 10 <sup>4</sup> | 3   | 4              | 37  | 2              |
| 10 <sup>7</sup> | 10 <sup>5</sup> | 5   | 23             | 18  | 2              |
| 10 <sup>7</sup> | 10 <sup>6</sup> | 2   | 16             | 1   | 7              |
| 10 <sup>8</sup> | 10 <sup>5</sup> | 2   | 3              | 39  | 6              |

I realise now that the experiment was unfair to Jacob there being an excess of F<sup>-</sup>; no doubt a great amount of infection of Hfr x F<sup>-</sup> progeny takes place, but if the present data with an excess of F<sup>-</sup> can be taken as good, not enough to explain the whole of observed recombination. Moreover, if the ~~xxxxxx~~ Jacob's hypothesis is correct, there should be a ~~xxxxxx~~ F<sup>+</sup> → Hfr mutation rate of about 1 in 300, which seems rather in conflict with all the experience cumulated in thousands of isolates from F<sup>+</sup> strains. It should however be of some importance to establish the F<sup>+</sup> to Hfr mutation rate, and its bearing on the recombination frequencies. Have you any data, plans, suggestions?

All the best,  
*Yours, Luca.*

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| Reid      | Mafia                                 |
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| Riesman   | Individualism Reconsidered            |
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Six

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*Also*  
*Order of American 83*  
*March 1 1957*